

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 28 to page 6, line 2 as follows:

- - In yet a further embodiment, an agent chosen from the group comprising the following; alkaline phosphatase, PPI-ase, apyrase, dimethylsulfoxide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, spermidine, detergents such as NP-40 (~~nonyl phenoxypolyethoxylethanol~~ nonionic surfactant), TWEEN 20 (~~polyserbate—20~~ nonionic surfactant) and TRITON X-100 (~~C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>~~ with n being an average of 9.5 nonionic surfactant); various proteins that affect secondary structure of DNA including Single Stranded DNA Binding Protein (SSB) or the protein of Gene 32, is added. - -

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 19, line 6 to page 19, line 12 as follows:

- - A number of agents or additives may be used in the disclosed method for improving the performance of the sequencing reaction. Examples of such additives include the following: dimethylsulfoxide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, spermidine, detergents such as NP-40 (~~nonyl phenoxypolyethoxylethanol~~ nonionic surfactant), TWEEN 20 (~~polyserbate—20~~ nonionic surfactant) and TRITON X-100 (~~C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>~~ with n being an average of 9.5 nonionic surfactant); various proteins that affect secondary structure of

DNA including Single Stranded DNA Binding Protein (Amersham Biosciences) and Gene 32 Protein (Amersham Biosciences). - -